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SUBJECT: Sino-US Talks: Briefing of GRC

REF: (A) State 27045 (B) State 27529 re: 14
(C) Shoesmith-Armstrong TELECON

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1. We wish continue handle briefings in Washington.. You should therefore not offer brief GRC and if asked about February 20 meeting should seek delay discussion until receipt of our talking paper (pouched February 25) used in briefing GRC Embassy February 24. Following summary, however, provided response ref (C).
2. February 20 meeting, this time in US Embassy, again lasted one hour in non-polemical atmosphere similar to January meeting.
3. Chinese opening statement again focussed on Taiwan

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CLEARANCES:

XXXXXX EA/ROC - Mr. Shoesmith (lעת)

S/S - Mr. Brown (AB)

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question and US relations with GRC. Charge Lei said PRC had always sought relations between States with different social systems on the basis of the 5 principles of peaceful coexistence and for peaceful settlement of differences through negotiations. Lei said PRC willing enter negotiations now to discuss relaxation of tensions in Far East and especially in Taiwan area.

4. Noting US persistence on ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ secondary questions, Lei said fundamental question of Taiwan should be settled first before discussion other matters. US positions on Taiwan defense commitment and friendly relations with GRC and US pursuit of "one China, one Taiwan" or "two Chinas" are policy/inconsistent with improvement PRC-US relations, with peaceful settlement Taiwan question and with peaceful coexistence principles.

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5. Progress on such secondary questions as prisoners could follow solution of Taiwan question.
6. Ambassador Stoessel responded by acknowledging that differing attitudes about Taiwan remained a major obstacle. He affirmed that we felt the Taiwan question should be resolved by peaceful means, without resort to the threat or use of force and said that our relationships with the GRC are consistent with that position. He added that our limited military presence in area is not threat to security of PRC. Stoessel said USG, whose position consistent with peaceful coexistence principles, willing discuss joint declaration affirming adherence five principles.
7. After mentioning past US trade and travel decisions and soliciting expression Peking's interest in developing these types of contacts, Stoessel said we interested in discussing

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arrangements for expansion of trade in general and for settlement of all debts between two countries.

8. In discussing prisoners, Stoessel urged PRC to commute sentence of an American prisoner as sign of movement away from old hostilities. Also again mentioned desire for identification of missing Americans.

9. Rebuttal exchanges were brief and included further US remarks on prisoners question.

10. Chinese agreed our suggestion two sides' liaison officers be in touch relatively soon on next meeting.

11. Transcript-checking session held February 21 in U.S. Embassy. We raised prisoners question again ~~XXX~~ and passed copy of President's February 18 report.

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[ROGERS]

END

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